

## Response to Family/Public Inquiries about COVID-19's Impact on Addiction Recovery Programming

The IDOC has implemented a robust prevention and response plan to help minimize the risk to offenders, staff, and contractors from the COVID-19 virus, including: limiting the movement of offenders and staff both within and between IDOC facilities statewide, reducing the size of group meetings to comply with recommendations from the CDC, and allocating Department resources to the most essential operational functions. As a result, several programs must operate at a reduced pace and capacity in order to support the IDOC's primary mission of safety and security.

In practical terms, this means that offenders currently participating in the Recovery While Incarcerated (RWI) addiction treatment program will likely take longer to complete their treatment, while those waiting to begin RWI will experience lengthier delays before being able to enroll in instructor-led treatment. Unfortunately, no one can predict how long the COVID-19 virus will continue to impact normal IDOC operations and programming. Every effort will be made to offer some form of addiction treatment to offenders, regardless of the restrictions and limitations that must be observed.

Additional information about the COVID-19 virus and the State's response plans can be found at <https://coronavirus.in.gov/>.